



## State of Tennessee

### SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 31

By Norris, Ford

A RESOLUTION congratulating Larry J. Silvey upon his reception of the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2011 Phoenix Award for Outstanding Contributions to Disaster Recovery by a Volunteer.

WHEREAS, it is wholly fitting that the members of this General Assembly formally recognize those Tennesseans who stand as embodiments to the characteristics which earned this State its designation as "The Volunteer State"; and

WHEREAS, Larry J. Silvey of Millington is certainly one such individual, who was recently recognized by the U.S. Small Business Association (SBA) as the recipient of the Phoenix Award; and

WHEREAS, the SBA recognized Mr. Silvey for his unflagging efforts to help the citizens of Millington recover from the floods of May 2010, when many Millingtonians lost their homes to the worst flooding to ever hit Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, after the rains stopped and the waters began to recede, Larry Silvey, a seventy-year-old building contractor and retired Navy Master Chief, began organizing a large team of volunteers who, over the next seven weeks, logged ten thousand hours of volunteer labor and rebuilt two hundred homes; and

WHEREAS, with a tent at the corner of Arapaho and Bill Knight serving as his headquarters, Mr. Silvey organized crews of volunteers and sent them into the homes of those hardest hit by the flooding. These crews first cleared out the homes, removing everything damaged by the flood waters, then dried the homes and, after each one passed inspection, rebuilt the homes, replacing drywall, insulation, cabinets, trim, flooring, and whatever else was necessary, often covering the costs of these materials; and

WHEREAS, in addition to organizing work crews, Larry Silvey prioritized the jobs which faced him and his crews each day and initiated a detailed system which tracked the total amount of work done each day and how much and what kind of work was done to each house; and

WHEREAS, as a contractor, Larry Silvey was able to pull most of the work permits, removing yet another burden from the distraught homeowners, and his Herculean efforts, combined with the efforts of his friends and neighbors, helped turn a tragedy into an opportunity for growth and healing, a collection of homes and people into a community; and

WHEREAS, though many of the volunteers were citizens of Millington, many came from as far away as Louisiana. Many of these individuals were eager to help Mr. Silvey, to repay him for leading several disaster response teams which helped them to recover from Hurricane Katrina; and

WHEREAS, Larry Silvey and his First Baptist Disaster Response Team made six trips to Louisiana after the hurricane, two trips to Oklahoma following a devastating ice storm, and participated in disaster relief efforts in Springfield, Missouri; Fulton, Kentucky; Zenith, Missouri; and Brownsville, Tennessee, and Mr. Silvey even participated in the rescue efforts during Millington's 1987 flood; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Silvey will be presented his award on May 19, 2011, during the SBA's National Small Business Week celebration, which will be held at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Silvey stands as an inspiration to us all, showing us what is best and kindest in the human spirit, and showing us, too, the indomitable nature of humanity. His efforts, unflagging and incredibly generous, are wholly worthy of recognition; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby congratulate Larry J. Silvey upon his

reception of the 2011 Phoenix Award for Outstanding Contributions to Disaster Recovery by a Volunteer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we also offer our deepest gratitude to Mr. Silvey for his volunteer efforts following last year's flood and extend our best wishes for his every future success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

**ADOPTED: May 4, 2011**

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**RON RAMSEY**  
**SPEAKER OF THE SENATE**